



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
1000
CO
20 Oct 10

DETACHMENT POLICY LETTER 06-10

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: BUDDY SYSTEM

Ref: (a) MCO 1500.58
(b) TRNGCMD Policy Letter 2-06

1. Commander's Intent. Per the references, this Detachment will implement a buddy system to improve force preservation and to help minimize on and off-duty incidents. This Policy Letter is applicable to entry level students only. My end state is for each student Marine to be paired with a known buddy to whom he/she can be accountable and who will take a personal interest in his/her personal and professional well being, on and off-duty.
2. It is well known that in combat and garrison, having a Marine to whom you are accountable to your left and to your right influences your ethical and moral actions. Marines' peers are more apt to realize a personal or professional problem of a fellow Marine before any other. The buddy system takes advantage of that premise and reinforces it by having a consistent companion to either help identify off-duty hazards, to identify personal problems or to be available for support if necessary.
3. While on liberty, student Marines from this Detachment are required to have their assigned buddy with them. The intent of this is for one another generally to look out for one another; however, more specifically:
 - a. Identify safety hazards during off-duty recreation.
 - b. Reinforce to each other professional off-duty conduct.
 - c. Identify personal and professional problems that have the potential to have a detrimental impact on a Marine's life.
 - d. Report to the chain of command any needed assistance regarding a buddy's problem.
4. As a result, and per the references, the following is directed:
 - a. Each student Marine will be given the opportunity to choose an assigned buddy. This will be done within 5 days of arrival to the Detachment. Leaders will ensure their Marines understand the intent of the Buddy System upon assignment.
 - b. Marines that have known discipline problems will not be buddies with other Marines with discipline problems.

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c. Buddy rosters will be created and maintained. Rosters will be updated the first week of every month, or sooner if necessary.

d. Buddies will maintain contact while on Permissive Temporary Additional Duty (PTAD) or leave status via telephone or computer (voice/e-mail/text), making contact at least once every week while in this status.

5. The buddy system will help keep our Marines safe during training and take advantage of the influence of peers regarding on and off-duty behavior in the spirit of our Corps Values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. To that end, leaders will make every effort to positively reward and reinforce appropriate actions taken by buddies in the Detachment.


N. A. SPRINGER